

SAC Airborne Command Control Association
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The SAC ACCA Flyer

Strategic Air Command
Airborne Command Control Association

Recording, Preserving and Celebrating the
Legacy of PACCS

Volume XXV Issue 4 October 2019

Charleston Reunion

Reunion dates September 16-20, 2020

DoubleTree by Hilton North Charleston Hotel reservations now open

Last date to reserve hotel at group rate—August 17, 2020

See Pages 6 & 7 For Reunion Update

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends, I have much to share regarding Board of Director changes, enlisting the help of a new 2020 Reunion Coordinator, Website and Facebook site development, USSTRATCOM and NAOC involvement, SAC & Aerospace Museum news, and recruitment.

Board of Director (BOD) Changes. Amy Walton resigned as Secretary after nearly one year of loyal service. We thank her, hope she'll continue to work with SAC ACCA, and wish her the best.

It's my pleasure to announce, by unanimous Board of Director vote, that William D. Stacy is our new Secretary. Many of you knew him as Doug and many of you knew of him as Stace. Stace has extensive command and control experience, much of it in SAC and the PACCS, and Information Technology experience in a large business environment as a senior manager.

His command and control experiences include nuclear command and control (NC2) in several SAC assignments including both the 8th and 15th Air Force Command Posts, the 4ACCS, and unit command posts. During his three years with the 4ACCS, Stace was dual certified as a Force Status and Emergency Actions Controller.

He also enjoyed notable service in two European assignments where he served with NATO, GLCM, and Allied Tactical Air Force operations. Stace's last assignment was in HQ ACC Requirements. Later, Stace retired from a post-service career as a senior manager in Information Management.

In his new role, Stace accepted the responsibility of publishing the quarterly SAC ACCA Flyer and executing all other secretarial duties. He will be working closely with all of us, particularly the Treasurer and Social Media Managers

Reunion Coordinator. Buffie Elder accepted the role of Reunion Coordinator for the SAC ACCA 2020 Reunion to be held in September of next year in Charleston, South Carolina. She has extensive experience including developing and managing events such as this reunion. As a Program Director, Buffie once managed an event that served over 2,000 people with a staff of 80. If you can help her and SAC ACCA with this, let her know at elderb.reunion2020@gmail.com or reach her through me. See more in this edition of the SAC ACCA Flyer.

ee President p. 2



President from 1

Website. Pete Wentzler and Mary Hillman continue to make tremendous improvements with the SAC ACCA Website. The website can be reached at <https://sac-acca.com>. They estimate that the website is 90 percent complete. After that, it will be regularly maintained and updated. See more in this edition of the SAC ACCA Flyer.

Facebook Site. Pete and Mary are also developing an official Facebook Page/ Group unanimously agreed upon by the Board of Directors. This Facebook site will be launched, November 1st, 2019. See more in this edition of the SAC ACCA Flyer.

USSTRATCOM ABNCP and NAOC Involvement. I continue to work with the functional and operational managers of command and control specialties in both the Looking Glass and Nightwatch operations. And, I still believe they understand the heritage of SAC and its role in all airborne command post platforms using the EC-135s, E-4Bs, and the modern-day E-6Bs.

The difficulty, and one I'm more than happy to work with, is convincing these young warriors to join our ranks and mix their young thoughts, interests, and experiences with ours. I believe we will succeed.

EC-135C 049 Updates. We continue to maintain an open line of communication with the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum and stay abreast of museum developments, particularly those related to 049. It's always important to remember that this museum displays many artifacts and caters to a much wider audience than just us.

Jeff Cannon, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Strategic Air Command & Space Museum, and a true friend of SAC ACCA, provides the following regarding the restoration of 049.

Donations: \$105,753. Expenses to date: \$70,845. Volunteer hours June/July: 1,563. Volunteer hours now approach an impressive 30,000 compared to 27,538 in June. Donations are at \$105,628 and expenses at \$68,759. The interior of the aircraft is nearly complete. An exterior test paint on the tail is scheduled for this November.

Up to date information on the museum and its efforts can be found at <https://sacmuseum.org/>.

Recruitment. If the SAC ACCA is to survive, we must recruit new members. We must look to those younger than us, including children, grandchildren, other family members, students, and those we've mentored, taught, known, and entrusted with wisdom and historical knowledge.

At the same time, we need to reach out to those with whom we flew and supported the mission. There are many, some of who we converse with on social media, who were associated with the PACCS yet are not members. This could be simply because they do not know of SAC ACCA. Let's change this.

I encourage all to recruit others. I strongly believe we need to impress upon others the importance, not only of the PACCS, but of Cold War History. Before our Cold War History is lost, we need to do all we can to save and secure it.

Scholarships. I introduced this idea at last year's business meeting and revisited it again in the last Flyer. I believe we should, as an association, consider bestowing modest scholarships upon deserving youth. I believe any young person could use financial help to offset the cost of books whether they're entering a

traditional formal education path or a vocational school. Please, give this your consideration and we can discuss it at next year's business meeting.

Thank you for your time and support of the SAC Airborne Command Control Association. If needed, I can be reached at 402-305-9296, 501-261-5026, or dan.sac.acca@gmail.org.

Yours in Airborne Command and Control,
Dan-O



Starboard side prepped landing gear



Painted port side landing gear

SAC ACCA Merchandise

| Item # | Item Description | Price |
|--------|------------------|---------|
| 101 | Cap | \$12.00 |
| 103 | Patch | \$5.00 |
| 106 | Lapel Pin | \$5.00 |
| 112 | Challenge Coin | \$10.00 |

Please make your check payable to SAC ACCA and mail to the Treasurer. Price includes shipping

Renewals, new memberships, or merchandise orders to:

SAC ACCA
Treasurer
c/o Joe Bruch
PO Box 2492
Saint George, UT 84771-2492

Information, general correspondence, changes of mailing address, newsletter articles or recommendations to:

SAC ACCA
Secretary
c/o W Doug Stacy
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**Strategic Air Command
Airborne Command Control Association
SAC ACCA**

Recording, Preserving and Celebrating the Legacy of PACCS

Membership Application or Annual Dues Renewal Form

Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____
(Last, First, Middle)

Rank/Title: _____ Branch of Service: _____ Status: _____
(Active, Retired, Other)

Mailing Address: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email address: _____

Indicate your affiliation with PACCS, ACCS: [Organization - Duty - (Dates)] Examples: [22nd ARS - IP (74-82)], [34ARS - BO (63-66)], [HQ SAC - ABS (69-71)], [2nd ACCS - In-flight Maint (69-72)], [55th SRW - Staff (72-73)], [(4th ACCS - Crew Chief (74-76)], [AEAO/40ADIV (74-76)], [SAC Hq - Planner (88-90)]. **Renewals may omit this data unless there are changes.**

Amount Enclosed:
_____ Initial Fee (\$10.00) _____ Annual Dues (\$15.00) Year(s) _____ Reinstatement (\$10.00)

If paying annual dues, please indicate for what year(s) you are enclosing payment. The current paid year for your dues will be found in parentheses on the mailing label of your most recent newsletter.

New memberships require the payment of the initial fee and dues for the year (\$25.00). Dues are for the period 1 Jan through 31 Dec and are due the first day of January (\$15.00) each year. A reinstatement fee, plus current dues, is due for inactive members who wish to reactivate their membership after an absence of two years or more (\$25.00).

Please indicate your preference regarding the publication of your name and address on membership rosters which may be provided to the membership of SAC ACCA.

FROM THE SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGERS

The Social Media Managers have been busy continuing construction and improvement to the SAC ACCA Website and creating an official SAC ACCA Facebook site. And, we are working more closely than ever to provide a long distance, multi-point, collaborative working environment for all the elected and appointed officers and the Reunion Coordinator.

Website. The website can be found at <https://sac-acca.com>. We estimate it to be 90 percent complete. After that, it will be maintained and updated regularly.

Current emphasis is on the New Member Joining Feature. We're working with the Treasurer and Secretary, PayPal, Wells Fargo, and GoDaddy to modernize this feature while still maintaining the traditional registration process.

A "Folded Wings" section was created like that published in the Quarterly Flyer and the biennial reunion programs.

An online store, "Inflight Shopping" was created and will feature more than a half-dozen items. Please, be patient as a purchasing process needs to be finalized. This will be connected to PayPal and credit card friendly. Nearly 100 percent of available photographs were added. Many of these photo-



63-8046 2ACCS-55SRW EC-135C INFLIGHT Apr-87 Photo Joe Bruch Collection

graphs were contributed by one donor for our use and are watermark protected.

Restoration of EC-135C, 63-8049, information and photographs is incorporated and will be updated as the 049 restoration progresses.

Facebook Site. We will launch an officially sanctioned SAC ACCA Facebook site on November 1st, 2019. The site will be used to share and communicate information for the entire Association. Privacy and other controls and settings are being determined. Also, we're looking at the membership roster to determine who and how to invite members. While we might want the page to be available for everyone to view to help grow membership, we will do everything possible to avoid "trolling".

Collaboration. We are working closely with the Board of Directors and appointed officers, particularly the Secretary and Treasurer, and the Reunion Coordinator

to create and improve features to help bring the entire Association into a more user-friendly environment. This includes online membership registration, dues payment, merchandise purchases, reunion registration, and more timely information sharing. Related to this, we are exploring the best way to share file storage in The Cloud.

From The Treasurer

Going forward, the SAC ACCA Treasurer will conduct an annual audit with a third party accounting firm here in St. George Utah. In the past the audit was conducted every two years at the SAC ACCA Reunion business meeting.

Please examine your address mailing label on the next "Flyer" quarterly newsletter. If the date reflects 2018, please remit \$15.00 for your annual dues renewal. Also, if your contact information has changed, please let us know the changes.

From The Historian

THE EC135 IN THE NON-NUCLEAR ROLE

By Steve Shirley (SAC/ACCA Historian)

I'd like to thank the Board of Directors for their faith in me in filling the Historian position, a role that Greg Ogletree has superbly filled for many years. I hope I can live up to the standards he's set.

21 years ago, on 25 September, the EC-135C flew its final *Looking Glass* mission, a mission it superbly performed for over thirty-seven years. Whether its role was the "Glass"/ABNCP, CINCSAC Support, EASTAUX, WESTAUX, ALCC, Radio Relay, NEACP on the EC-135J's, CINCEUR, CINCLANT, or CINCPAC ABNCPs, the EC-135 provided a key element in U.S. nuclear deterrence and was a significant contributor to U.S. victory in the Cold War.

While those missions are well documented, little, if anything is documented about the role of the EC-135 in support of conventional operations, beginning in 1991 when two EC-135L model aircraft with crews from Grissom and Ellsworth deployed to King Khalid International Airport, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in support of **OPERATION DESERT STORM**. Historian Greg Ogletree, in collaboration with TSgt Carl R. Hall, USAF ret., superbly details their exploits in a three-part story beginning with the June 2010 issue of the *SAC ACCA Flyer*, **AT THE TAIL END OF THE COLD WAR: EC-135s Fly in a Hot War!** Without these stories, few would know, or even remember of their contributions in DESERT STORM:

"the EC-135L was the critical communications lifeline between front-line troops, tactical air support, and their command and control agencies. Notably, the EC-135L relay as credited with assists for two MIG kills, eight search and rescue efforts, and the destruction of numerous tanks and Scud missile launchers." In fact, aircraft 0269 alone was credited with assists for 27 Scud strikes and more than 60 tank kills.

The end of the Cold War saw important changes. The EC-135 was taken off continuous airborne alert in 1990, although it remained on ground alert. The changing world situation and improved systems also made it possible to take the other PACCS aircraft and crews off alert and dissolve those organizations. In 1991, the CINCEUR, CINCLANT and CINCPAC ABNCPs also began deactivation plans which were completed in 1992. With the deactivation of the PACCS aircraft and the Theater ABNCPs, the SAC/STRATCOM ABNCP assumed more responsibility to ensure that all nuclear forces were executed. With the Theater ABNCP deactivation, the concept was to have the ABNCP aircraft, flight, communications, and maintenance crews from Offutt deploy, and using the theater battle



staff, support that Commanders nuclear command and control mission. EUCOM and PACOM continued to utilize the EC-135 for their ABNCP missions, however the PACOM missions were more or less shopping trips to Kadena, Anderson, or Diego Garcia. EUCOM continued to use the platform like they did with their *Silk Purse* missions, with quarterly deployments to the EUCOM Theater for training as the EUCOM Contingency ABNCP. It was during this time that rumors of the retirement of the EC-135 began to emerge, and quickly became reality.

In attempt to keep the airframe, members of the 55th Wing and the 2ACCS, using the success and concept of the EC-135L's in DESERT STORM as a model, hit the road in an attempt to "sell" the use of the EC-135 in a conventional role. With the EC-130 Airborne Battlefield Command, Control, and Communications (ABCCC) aircraft involved in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) was left without a fixed-wing airborne C2 node. The door opened, providing the Wing the opportunity to present their Concept of Operations for the -135 in filling the void. Through the dedication and knowledge of the EC's comm systems by the In-Flight Maintenance Technicians, Communicators, and with help from the JSOC operators, they were successful in integrating SOCOM's communications equipment with the aircraft's organic communications and antennas. It wasn't always "pretty" in the beginning, and with some trial and error, the combined team developed a comprehensive communications package and the EC-135 became a regular participant in JSOC exercises and monthly proficiency training deployments to Pope AFB, NC.

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Appointed Officers, 2018 - 2020

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Mary Hillman

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2020 Reunion Committee

Reunion Coordinator

Buffie Elder

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Reunion Committee

Marianne Makar

Steven Hong-Elder

FOLDED WINGS

SSgt Todd C. Vanderwerken USAF

4 August 2019

Age 57

Todd joined the US Air Force in 1981 and after Tech School at Keesler AFB, MS was assigned to the 55th AMS at Offutt Air Force Base, NE. He served as an In-flight Maintenance Technician on board both "Looking Glass" and "NEACP". He was honorably discharged in 1992 after 11 years of service.



Capt. Carla M. Frost USAF Ret.

23 July 2011

Age 49

Carla joined the USAF in 1981 and was assigned to the 2nd ACCS as a Flight Stew. After obtaining her Undergraduate Degree in Medical Management from Bellevue University in Omaha, NE she was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. She then obtained a Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work from University of Nebraska. She retired as a Captain from the United States Air Force after 20 years of honorable service.



TSgt Jerome A. Egan USAF Ret.

20 June 2011

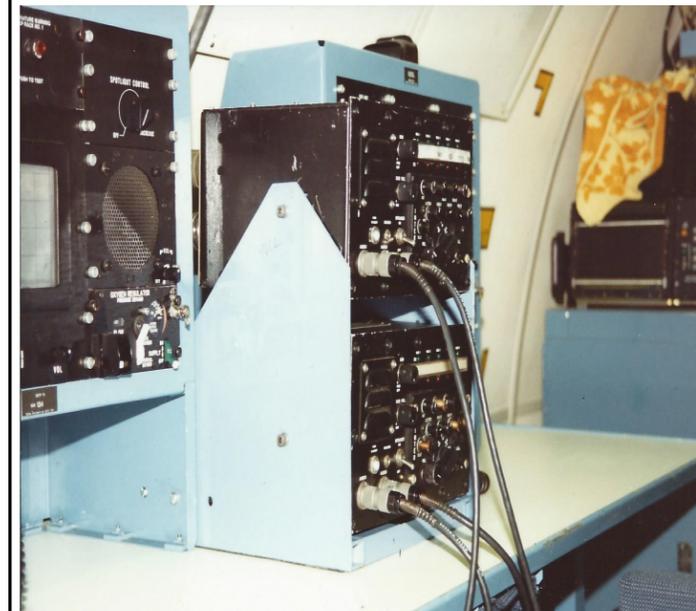
Age 56

Jerry joined the USAF in 1978 after serving 4 years in the USN. In 1980, after Tech School at Keelser AFB, MS Jerry was assigned to the Air Force Communications Service (AFCS) and served the 2nd ACCS as a Data Operator on "Looking Glass". He Left Offutt AFB in 1985 but returned again in 1989 where he served until retirement in 1995.



As I mentioned, it wasn't pretty, (and yes, there a few safety issues) but it was functional, and effective, and we were able to incorporate their UHF Tactical Satellite (TACSAT), Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS), VHF and additional UHF radios by running cables from the equipment into the ceiling with the aircraft antennas and tied them into Audio Monitoring Units in the battle staff compartment, allowing the JSOC battle staff the capability of transmitting and receiving up to 10 networks.

While supporting JSOC, the Army's XVII ABN Corps took an interest in using the EC-135 as their Airborne C2 node, and we began additional deployments to Pope AFB to integrate the Army's roll on systems onto the aircraft. While not quite as elaborate as JSOC's, Army operators also configured equipment racks for their gear, and included the EC-135 in their quarterly Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (EDREs) and incorporated the airframe into their operational planning.



Battle Staff AMU

It was at Pope AFB while supporting JSOC training on 29 May, 1992, and 2 Sep 1997 that two EC's, 62-3584 and 63-8053 were heavily damaged when 3584 overshot the runway, and effectively broke the spine of the aircraft, and 8053 slammed onto the runway, bounced, and hit the runway again, sheering off the nose gear.

In early 1994, the U.S. began planning for *Operation Restore Democracy*, an operation initially planned by JSOC to return the deposed Haitian government to power, and later re-named *Operation Uphold Democracy*, grew in size to include the Army's XVII Corps, elements of the U.S. Marines, and a

small Multi-National Force of Caribbean nations, with the EC-135 being a key participant. Supporting JSOC and the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 55th Wing deployed 4 x EC-135s (primary and back-up) to Pope AFB to provide Command and Control between the airborne assets, ground forces, and the Navy's amphibious command ship, the USS Mount Whitney, with the Commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps onboard.

On September 18, 1994, with over 60 aircraft in the air, one of them the EC-135 supporting JSOC, a diplomatic element led by former President Jimmy Carter, U.S. Senator Sam Nunn and retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell persuaded the leaders of Haiti to step down and allow the elected officials to return to power. The EC, having just refueled, dumped gas to get back to a safe landing weight before returning back to Pope AFB where its crew was ordered to mission plan and redeploy to Haiti the following day to help ensure an orderly transition of government. The EC flew 5 Command and Control missions over the next several days as the military assumed control over key towns.

Other successful employments of the EC-135, although short lived, included Green Flag participation and Cobra Gold in 1995 where we demonstrated the value of the EC-135 by providing complete situational awareness to the battle staff while enroute from Ft. Lewis Washington, to Korat Royal Air Force Base, Thailand. When the aircraft landed, the Commander was up to date on the situation, and able to "hit the ground running", without the need for numerous updates. While at Korat, the aircraft acted as the primary command center when the primary experienced communications and power problems, again proving the benefit of the EC-135 and it's organic / carry-on communications systems.

While these experiences showed the value of the EC-135 in a conventional role, the attempt to "save" the EC-135 couldn't overcome the fiscal reality associated with the costs of maintaining several unique airframes and who would pay the for it.

With its fate sealed, the EC-135 was finally retired, and will always be remembered for its role in Nuclear Deterrence, and hopefully, the conventional arena.

AT THE TAIL END OF THE COLD WAR: EC-135s Fly in a Hot War! By Greg Ogletree, SAC ACCA Historian and TSgt Carl R. Hall, USAF ret. SAC ACCA Flyer, February 2011

IF ANYONE HAS SOMETHING THEY'D LIKE TO SHARE, PLEASE CONSIDER WRITING A STORY FOR THE NEWSLETTER. THE ONLY WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO RECORD AND PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF THE PACCS, IS FROM THE MEMBERS RECOLLECTIONS AND MEMORIES OF THEIR VARIOUS EXPERIENCES.



From the Reunion Coordinator

Greetings fellow SAC ACCA members. I trust you've all been anxiously awaiting news regarding the 2020 reunion in Charleston, SC. We'll be staying at the DoubleTree by Hilton in North Charleston, just a short drive from the historic downtown district. The hotel reservation information is included in this flyer. In keeping with past reunion procedure, a set number of rooms have been reserved for our event. Please make your reservations as soon as possible but no later than August 17, 2020.

The committee is working to provide a most memorable visit. Complete reunion and registration information will be provided in the next flyer and posted on the new website as soon as it is available. Right now, I am pleased to announce that the guest speaker for the closing banquet is Jeff Cannon the President and CEO of the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum since April 2018.

Jeff's father served in the USAAF/USAF from 1943 through 1968 and was a member of SAC. Jeff was born at Forbes AFB in Topeka, Kansas. He lived in Nebraska for 22 years and holds three degrees from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. In 2008 Jeff moved to the Washington, DC area. There he served as Principal-in-Charge and Program Manager for a massive redevelopment of several Smithsonian museums over a ten-year period. During his 25-year career in museum development, Jeff has worked on or consulted with several military heritage museum projects. Some include all four Iowa class battleship museums and the National Museum of the USAF. He is looking forward to sharing his experiences and updating us all on what is happening with 049 and the museum



EC-135A 62-3579 Fly over @ KRCA Photo Joe Bruch Collection



SAC ACCA REUNION September 16-20, 2020, Charleston, South Carolina

We are working to get a tour schedule for the Charleston visit. A full list of events and registration packet will be included in the next edition of The SAC ACCA Flyer as well as online. If there is something you would like the committee to consider including on the list of tours, please submit your idea(s) by November 3, 2019. Email Buffie Elder at eld-erb.reunion2020@gmail.com or call 402-305-9295.

Registration: You must be a registered member of SAC ACCA or authorized guest to attend the reunion. You can now join or renew your membership at www.sac-acca.com. Registration for the reunion must be made online or postmarked no later than August 10, 2020. *No walk-ins will be accepted.* The cost to register for the reunion is \$15.00/person. There will be a complete registration packet in the next flyer and online.

Reservations: Make your hotel reservations now with the DoubleTree by Hilton, Hotel & Suites Charleston Airport, 7401 Northwoods Blvd, North Charleston, SC 29406, **phone: 1-843-518-6200**. You must let them know you are with the SAC ACCA *Military Reunion* to get the group discount of \$119.00 plus tax and fees. Reservations must be made with the hotel by **August 17, 2020**. The discounted rate is honored three days before and after the event. A complimentary shuttle is available from Charleston International Airport. Please see the hotel registration in this flyer for more details.

You are invited and encouraged to attend any or all events taking place during the reunion even if you choose not to stay at the DoubleTree. *Please note, transportation to and from tours/events is provided from the hotel.*

Meals: The DoubleTree houses a restaurant called Two Wrights. Breakfast each day will be on your own. Breakfast coupons for \$10 each will be available for purchase for in-house guests. Dinner Thursday and Friday will also be on your own. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided during the registration reception Wednesday evening and a full dinner will be served at the closing banquet Saturday night. Lunch will be arranged while out touring Charleston. The hotel offers a complimentary shuttle to anywhere within a 6-mile radius. Please see the hotel registration in this flyer for a list of example restaurants in the area.

Attire: Business casual is appropriate for the closing banquet. Casual attire for all other events is welcome. Touring will consist of some light walking. Comfortable shoes are encouraged.

Refunds: Registration fees can only be refunded if you cancel by August 1, 2020.

Special needs: We want everyone to have the best experience possible. Please let us know if you have any dietary, mobility, or other needs that we need to take into consideration. Please use the contact information at the top of this page.

SAC ACCA business/board meeting: All paid members are encouraged to attend. The meeting will begin at 0900 Saturday September 19. Check-in for the meeting begins at 0830. Again, you must be a member in good standing to attend the business meeting.